







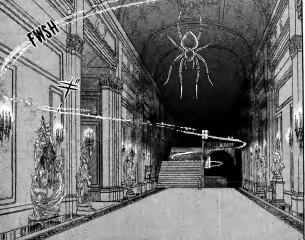
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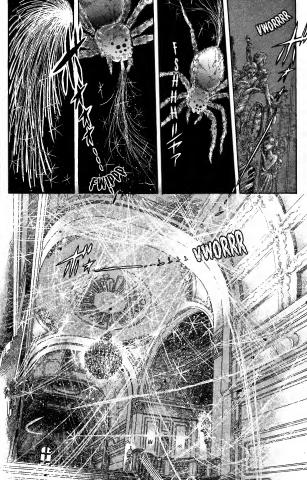


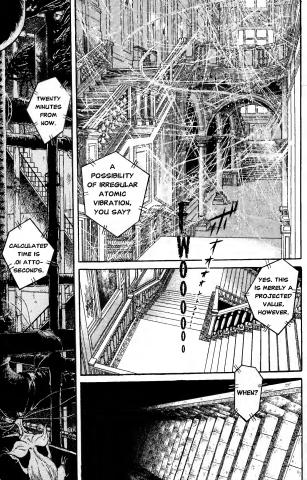


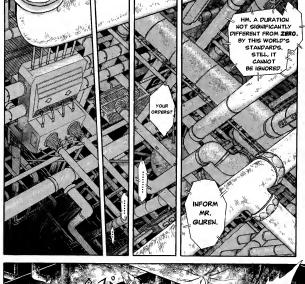


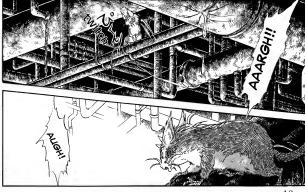
























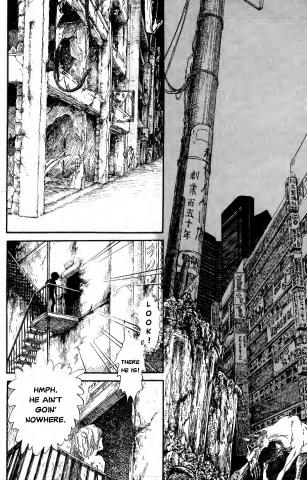
















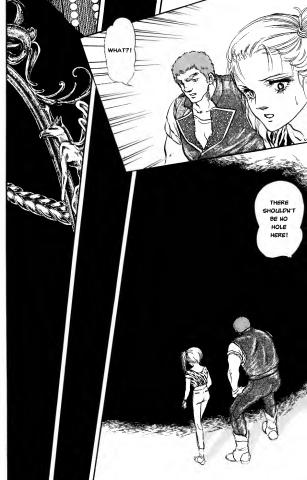


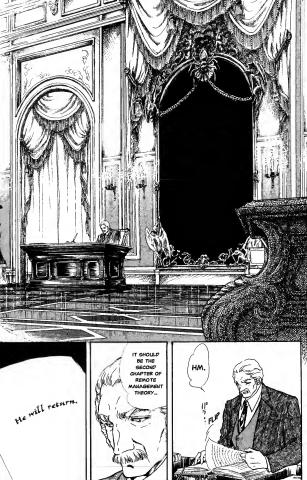




































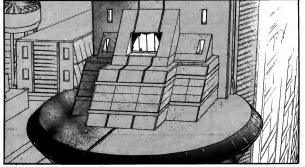


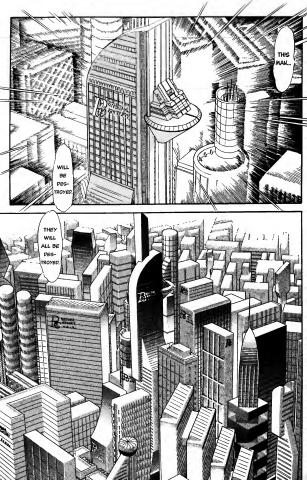


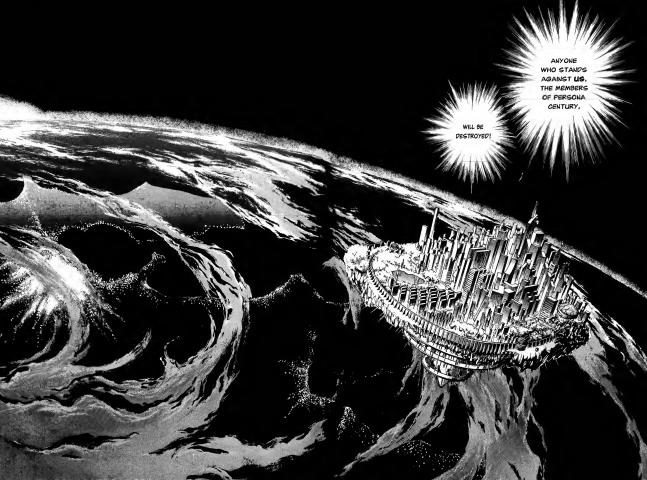


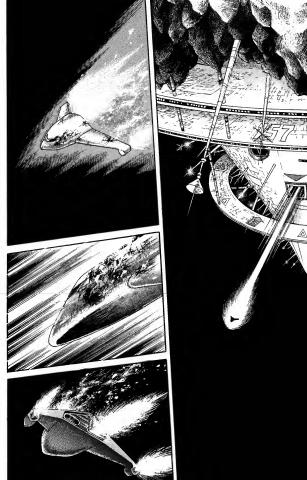


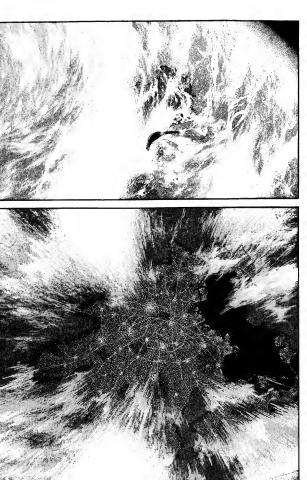


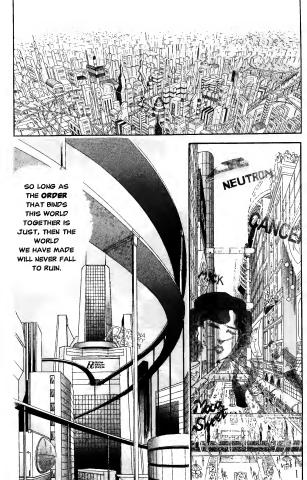


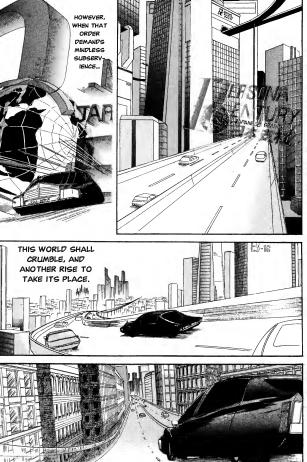


























A FEW PAYS AGO, SOME TERRORISTS INFILTRATED OUR OFFICE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PERSONA CENTURY'S PRESIDENT. ALL BUT ONE OF THEM WERE SLAIN.







ECON

WILL THAT
RECEIVE PROVIDES

\$50,000 IN CASH, INFORMATION
AND EMPLOYMENT
AT PERSONA
CENTURY AS AN
ASSISTANT
MANAGER.

THAT
CENTURY AS AN
ASSISTANT
MANAGER.

ANYONE

ANYONE WHO CAPTURES
THE CRIMINAL--PEAD
OR ALIVE--WILL RECEIVE
\$100,000 IN CASH, AND
EMPLOYMENT AT
PERSONA CENTURY AS
A DIVISION MANAGER.











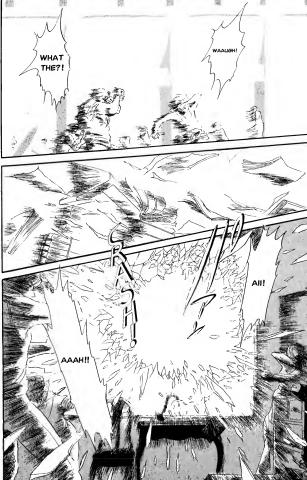




























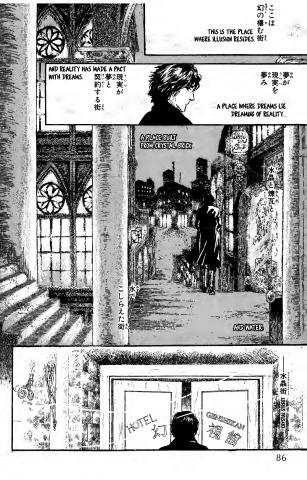






































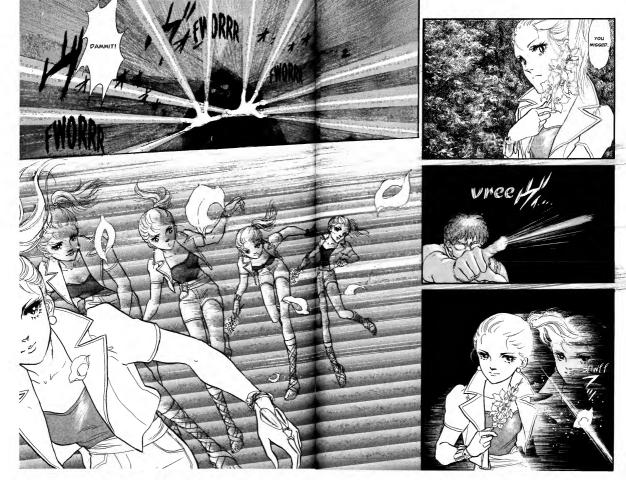






CREEPIER THAN HIM!



















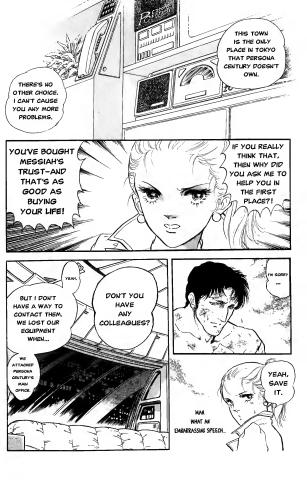
















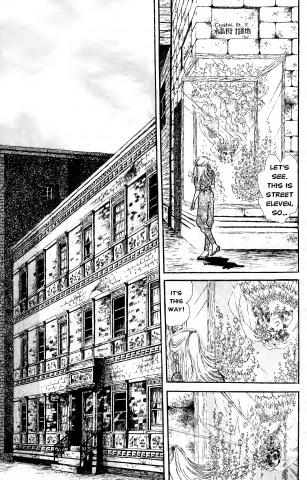




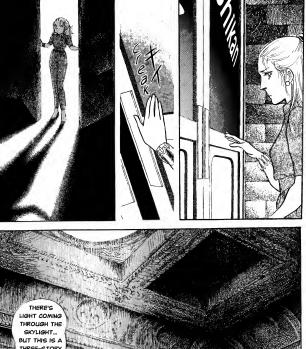




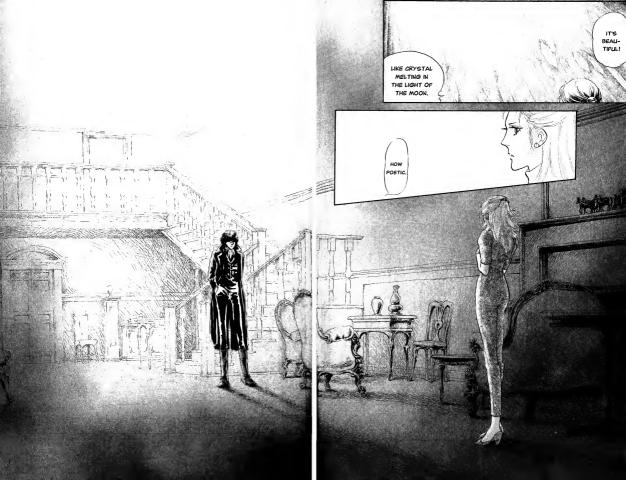




















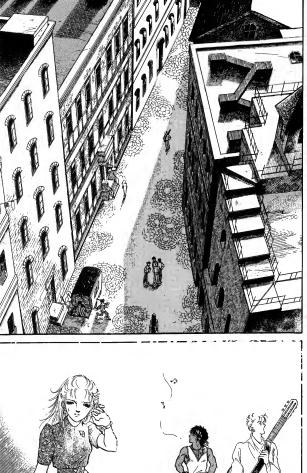






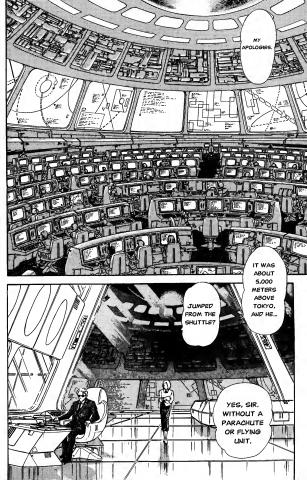
























































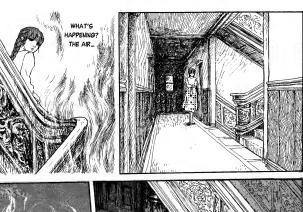




























WHY ARE WE EVEN POING
THIS? IT'S NOT
LIKE WE HATE
EACH OTHER
OR ANYTHING.

IT'S AMAZING THEY WERE ABLE TO SEAL A PERSON WITHIN THAT TIMEFRAME. EIGHTEEL YEARG AGO, PERSONA CENTREY COULD ONLY MAINTAIN A DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE FOR J NANOSECOUP.

















EVERY-THING IS BORN FROM DARK-NESS.

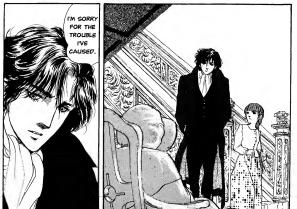
IT EVEN
GAVE BIRTH
TO THE
CORRECTION.











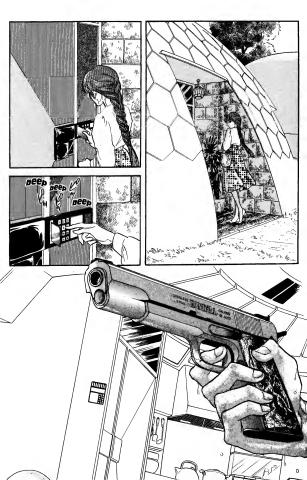


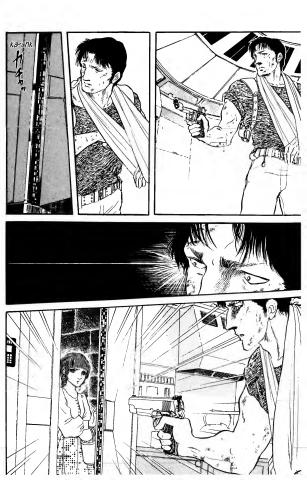


## DARKSIDE BLUES





















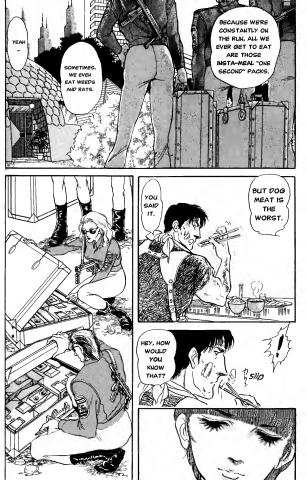
























































































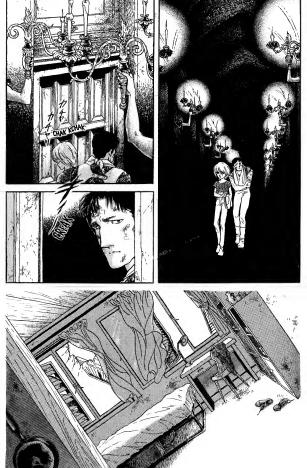


















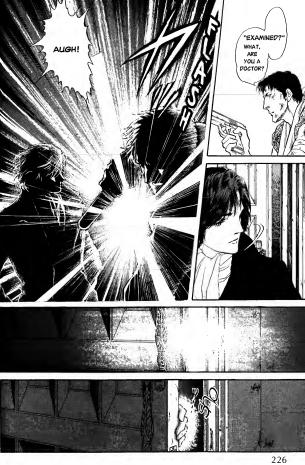






























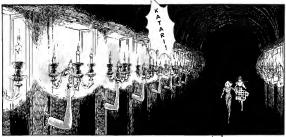






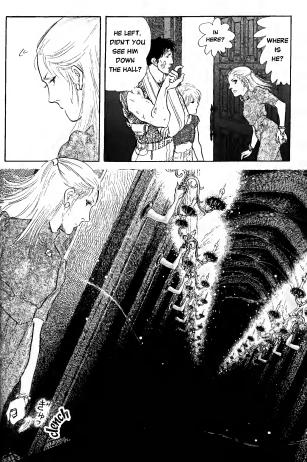


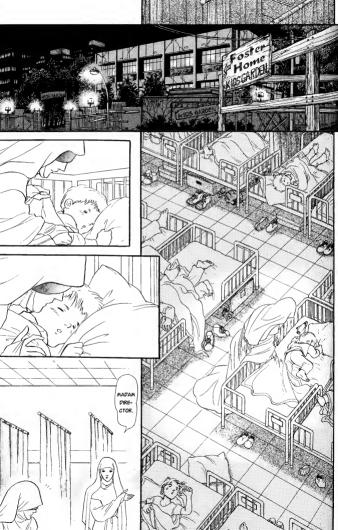
























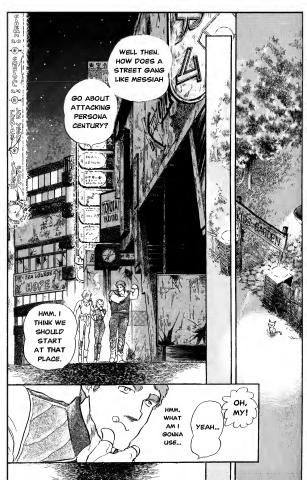












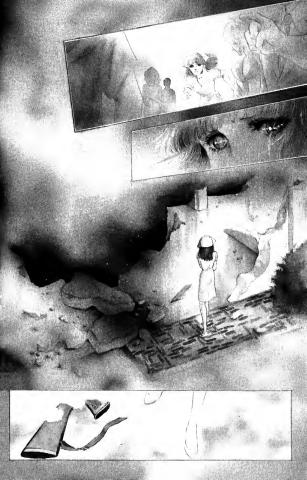












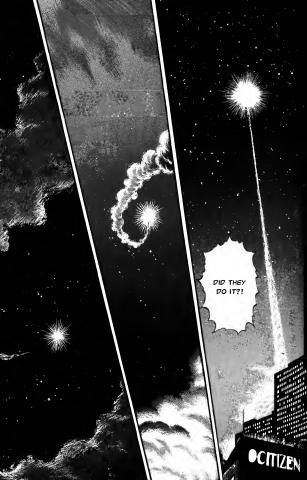






















































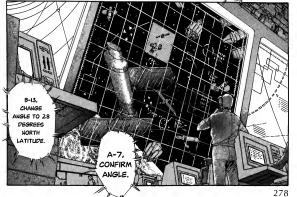


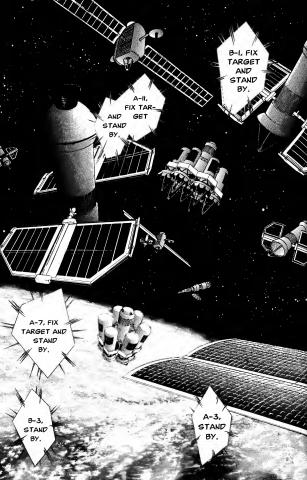






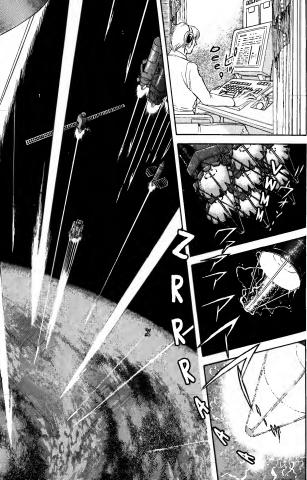










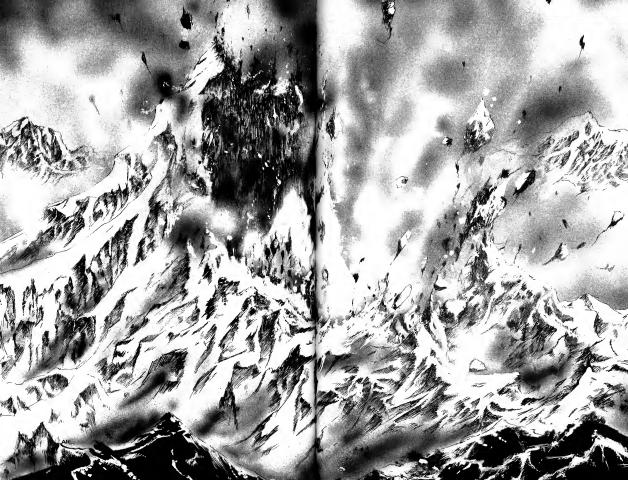








































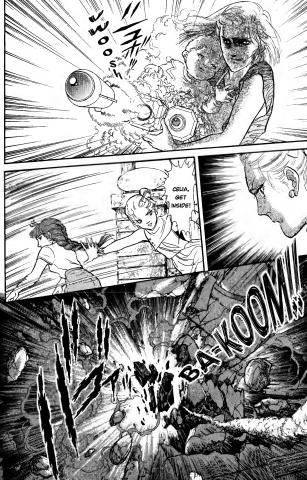








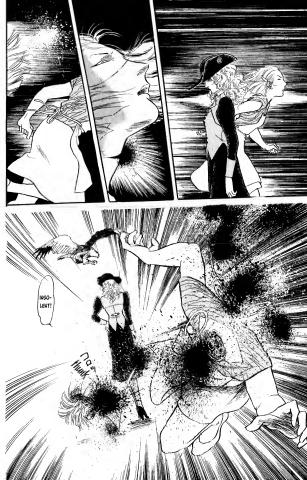










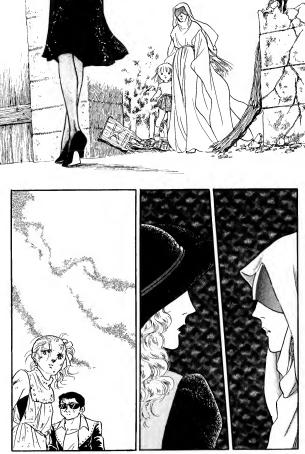




































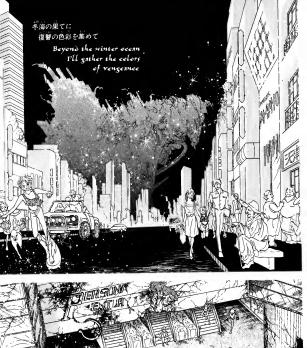








































AROUND SHINJUKU BECAUSE IT'S IN THE AREA WHERE I LIVE AND WORK.





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## TO THE DARK SIDE OF OUR READERS' MINDS (AN AFTERWORD)

DARKSIDE BLUES IS AT ITS CORE A FANTASY STORY.

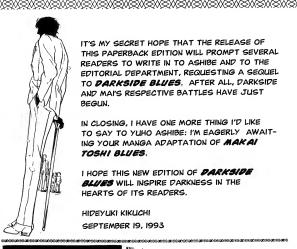
EVEN THOUGH IT TAKES THE FORM OF A MODERN SCI-FI STORY, IT HAS A KIND OF LIVING, ILLUSORY ENERGY THAT RUNS THROUGHOUT IT—AN ENERGY THAT IS FANTASTICAL IN NATURE. (I AM THE AUTHOR AFTER ALL, SO YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT).

FOR THIS REASON, THE PERSON WE CHOSE TO ILLUSTRATE THE STORY HAD TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FANTASY GENRE. I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU JUST HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO CREATE SCENES THAT BRIM WITH POWER OF THE IMAGINATION SIMPLY FROM READING THE SOURCE MATERIAL. SO WE COULDN'T GET JUST ANY MANGA ARTIST. IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE FULL OF IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY, SOMEONE WHO COULD POUR THAT ENERGY OUT INTO EACH AND EVERY ILLUSTRATION.

FROM THE BEGINNING, I'D HAD MY EYE ON A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL. EVER SINCE READING CRYSTAL DRAGON, THE NAME YUHO ASHIBE HAD STLICK, PERSISTENTLY, IN MY MIND—THUS, DARKSIDE BLUES WAS ILLUSTRATED BY THE BEST ARTIST FOR THE JOB. THE PROOF IS RIGHT THERE IN THE SCENE WHERE MAI AND KUROUMI MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH THAT SCENE WHERE MAI STOPS FOR A MOMENT AND WHISPERS THE WORD, "DARKNESS..." THAT SEQUIENCE WASN'T IN THE ORIGINAL STORY—IT WAS ALL YUHO ASHIBE. BEING ABLE TO TAKE THE ORIGINAL WORK AND USE THAT TO CREATE SOMETHING EVEN BETTER IS THE SIGN OF TRUE GENIUS.

IT'S A SHAME THAT BOTH ASHIBE AND I HAVE BEEN SO BLISY WITH OUR RESPECTIVE SCHEDULES THAT WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO COLLAB-ORATE ON ANOTHER WORK. THERE ARE ALSO NO PLANS TO CONTINUE THE STORY OF **PARKSIDE BLUES**. OF COURSE, THE STORY AS IT STANDS IS COMPLETE IN AND OF ITSELF, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND THE STORY A LITTLE MORE...



IT'S MY SECRET HOPE THAT THE RELEASE OF THIS PAPERBACK EDITION WILL PROMPT SEVERAL READERS TO WRITE IN TO ASHIBE AND TO THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, REQUESTING A SEQUEL TO DARKSIDE BLUES. AFTER ALL, DARKSIDE AND MAI'S RESPECTIVE BATTLES HAVE JUST BEGUN.

IN CLOSING, I HAVE ONE MORE THING I'D LIKE TO SAY TO YUHO ASHIBE: I'M EAGERLY AWAIT-ING YOUR MANGA ADAPTATION OF MAKAI TOSHI BLUES.

I HOPE THIS NEW EDITION OF DARKSIDE BLUES WILL INSPIRE DARKNESS IN THE HEARTS OF ITS READERS.

HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI SEPTEMBER 19, 1993







Dear Reader.

On behalf of the ADV Manga translation team, thank you for purchasing an ADV book. We are enthusiastic and committed to our work, and strive to carry our enthusiasm over into the book you hold in your hands.

Our goal is to retain the true spirit of the original Japanese book. While great care has been taken to render a true and accurate translation, some cultural or readability issues may require a line to be adapted for greater accessibility to our readers. At times, manga titles that include culturally-specific concepts will feature a "Translator's Notes" section, which explains noteworthy references to the original text.

We hope our commitment to a faithful translation is evident in every ADV book you purchase.

Sincerely,

Javier Lopez,

Eiko McGregor

Kay Bertrand

Lead Translator

Brendan Fravne

May Gray





## Darleside Plues

.01 nanoseconds

Ten to the negative 20th power of one second.

Me Koppo

Written with the characters for "bone" and "technique," this term refers more recently to a "total strike" martial art founded in 1998, and before that to the bone-breaking *koppo-jutsu* techniques in old schools of ninjutsu.

P. G Shinjuku Koma Stadium

This is an actual venue (which is also referred to as Shinjuku Koma Theater) located in the Kabuki-cho district. In Japanese, *koma* means "top" (as in the spinning kind). The building is so named because its shape resembles that of a top.

Readers of **Demon Palace Babylon** (also written by **Darkside Blues** author Hideyuki Kikuchi) will recognize this as the place where Kyoya Izayoi fought the demon Ishmael in volume 2.

P. 204 Fashion Health, Telephone Club and Snack

Here we see a glimpse of the seedier side of the Japanese entertainment industry. "Fashion Health" refers to establishments that offer sexual favors for pay. Telephone clubs, terekura for short, are services where a person (usually male) dials a certain number and hears either a voice message for, or is directly connected to, a person who is also looking to make a love connection. Lastly, "snacks" are glitzy, high-priced bars.

## Continued

P. 205 The Cage

In yet another nod to one of author Kikuchi's previous works, "The Cage" is the bar in **Demon Palace Babylon** where Kyoya Izayoi worked part-time as a bouncer. Its owner, the venerable Junko Sotoya, also appeared in **Babylon**.

P 219 The Second Revolution—A Primer

In a none-too-subtle in-joke, the editor of this book is none other than **DARK-SIDE BLUES** scribe Hideyuki Kikuchi.

Boosted Man

This term, invented by author Hideyuki Kikuchi, refers to one who has undergone bodily augmentation to increase their strength.

P. 276 Soapland

Yet another entry into the sex-for-pay industry. The name stems from the fact that clients are given a rudimentary washing before their "servicing" begins.

## KYOYA'S NOT DONE YET... NOT BY A LONG SHOT!

THE SWORD ASHURA SLASHES THROUGH TWO OTHER EXCITING SERIES FROM ADV MANGA!

A PALACE APPEARS IN THE SKY OVER Tokyo, and kydya's invited abdaro—for Sinister reasons!





THE DEFENSE AGENCY IS BATTLING THE DARK ORDER FOR CONTROL OF A GOD'S DEMON-SUMMONING POWERS.

THEY'LL NEFO KYNYA'S HELP—IF HE'S WILLING!

at Bookstores everywhere, exclusively from adv manga!



Darkside Blues

In the near future, almost the entire world lies in the iron grip of the power-hungry conglomerate, Persona Century Corporation. The city of Shinjuku has, until this point, remained outside of the grasp of this greedy company, but in spite of this—or perhaps, because of it—it has become a dangerous and lawless town, teeming with rebels and terrorists.

One day, a handsome, enigmatic young man by the name of Darkside mysteriously appears in Shinjuku. He, along with a small band of rebels, will attempt to break Persona's stranglehold on the world, if it isn't too late. . . .